

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07535 271635Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07  
/066 W

-----271643Z 084888 /43

O R 271436Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7996  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7535

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, UR  
SUBJECT: SUPREME SOVIET (SS) PRESIDUM MEETS: PODGORNYY NOT  
MENTIONED

REF: MOSCOW 7291

SUMMARY: NON-MENTION/APPEARANCE OF PODGORNYY OVER PAST  
TWO SUGGESTS HE IS BECOMING A NON-PERSON. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT CARRIED BY  
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SOVIET INFORMATION MEDIA THE PRESIDUM OF THE SS MET  
MAY 27. THE PRINCIPAL SPEECH, BY BREZHNEV, CONCERNED  
THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION. THE PRESIDUM ENDORSED THE  
BASIC DRAFT, ENVISIONS ITS PUBLICATION ON JUNE 4, AND  
INTENDS TO CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY SS SESSION IN  
OCTOBER FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE CONSTITUTION.

2. SUSLOV ALSO SPOKE. AS WAS THE CASE OF THE CPSU CC PLENUM, HIS SPEECH CONCERNED THE TEXT AND MUSIC OF THE SOVIET NATIONAL ANTHEM. THE PRESIDUM APPROVED THE WORDS AND MUSIC, AND THE ANTHEM WILL BE PUBLISHED. IT WILL BE ADOPTED EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1.

3. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESIDUM MEETING DID NOT MENTION PODGORNYY. HE IS STILL, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, OFFICIALLY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM. THE PRESIDUM COULD HAVE REMOVED HIM AT THIS MEETING, BUT IT DID NOT ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAD DONE SO. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT REPORTS OF PAST MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SS USUALLY (BUT NOT INVARIABLY) MENTION THAT PODGORNYY WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SESSION. AT THE VERY LEAST, THEREFORE, PODGORNYY WAS NOT IN THE CHAIR AND MAY WELL NOT HAVE BEEN THERE AT ALL. WE STILL EXPECT THAT THE JUNE 16 SESSION OF THE SS WILL ANNOUNCE HIS REMOVAL FROM THE PRESIDUM.

4. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS MAY 27, NOT TO PODGORNYY, BUT TO A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. THIS IN ITSELF IS NOT NECESSARILY SIGNIFICANT SINCE MANY AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO ONE OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN. MORE SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, IS THE FACT THAT THE TELEGRAM OF THANKS THAT FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN SENT TO BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR WAS CARRIED IN PRAVDA MAY 26, ADDRESSED TO THE LEADERSHIP AND WITHOUT ANY NAMES BEING CITED. THE FINNISH EMBASSY TELLS US  
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THAT THE CABLE WAS SENT, AS USUAL, MENTIONING THE NAMES OF THE THREE LEADERS. PUBLISHING THE THREE NAMES IN SUCH CASES IS STANDARD PRACTICE. THE TREATMENT OF THE FINNISH CABLE REINFORCES OUR CONVICTION THAT PODGORNYY IS ON THE WAY TO BECOMING A NON-PERSON.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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